

Detroit VA Healthcare System
4646 John R St.
Detroit, Michigan 48201

Contact: Alysse Mengason
Public Affairs Officer
313-576-3340
Alysse.mengason@va.gov



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA Medical Center to Kick-Off Volunteer Program and Encourage Community Involvement

(Detroit, MI)—The Detroit VA Healthcare System will launch an Employee Volunteer Program on **Wednesday, March 27, 2013**, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00. Organizations in Detroit and surrounding communities will be on-hand to pass out information and speak with the medical center's 1,800 employees on the various volunteer opportunities available within their organizations.

"This program came about as another way that we, as federal employees, can give back to the community," said William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations for the Medical Center. "Our focus all week, all year, is our Veterans, but so many of our employees came to us and asked if we could introduce a program where as employees, we could show our Veterans how much we care about our community."

More than a dozen organizations such as Gleaners Food Bank, Focus Hope, Detroit Reading Corp. and the Michigan Science Center will be in the medical center's multi-purpose room to speak to employees on Wednesday.

"I think we have the greatest jobs in the city, because we serve our Veterans," said Browning. "With this program, we'll be able to get out and experience other organizations and contribute to their well-being, while helping others in the community who may be in need."

Browning also emphasizes how much volunteers assist in the day-to-day operation of the medical center. "We are incredibly fortunate to have nearly 1,700 volunteers here at the medical center and we all gain so much watching these folks and their dedication to our Veterans."

For more information on the program, contact the Detroit VA Healthcare System Volunteer & Community Service, 313-576-3332.

Since 1939, the Detroit VAMC has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location in Detroit. The John D. Dingell VAMC located in Detroit, Michigan is one of the newest VA facilities in the country. We consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>

#